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Message Text

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17
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 /076 W
---------- 081860
O 060735Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3564
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0213

E.O. GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SO, FT, FR
SUBJECT: DJIBOUTI INCIDENT

1. SPOKESMAN FOR SOMALI COAST LIBERATION FRONT (FLCS) ANNOUNCED ON RADIO MOGADISCIO AFTERNOON OF FEB. 5 THAT 7-YEAR OLD FRENCH BOY FROM HIJACKED BUS WAS BEING TREATED AT HOSPITAL IN HARGEISA FOR INJURIES SUSTAINED IN BUS HIGHJACKING. HE SAID THAT BOY WOULD BE BROUGHT TO MOGADISCIO AFTER HIS TREATMENT (FYI WE HAVE UNCONFIRMED REPORT FROM SOMALI AIRPORT OFFICIAL THAT BOY WAS FLOWN TO MOGADISCIO LATE AFTERNOON OF FEB. 5 END FYI)

2. IN RADIO BROADCAST ON FEB. 5, SOMALI COAST LIBERATION FRONT SAID THAT FRENCH BOY WOULD BE HELD UNTIL FRONT'S DEMANDS MET (I.E., UNCONDITIONAL INDEPENDENCE FOR TERRITORY, RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, ETC.). HE ALSO DENIED THAT SIX COMMANDOS WERE KILLED BY FRENCH; HE SAID THAT THREE OF LIBERATION FRONT COMMANDOS WERE SLAIN BY FRENCH FORCES WHILE NEGOTIATING WITH GOF AND THAT THREE MEMBERS OF FRONT ESCAPED, TAKING BOY WITH THEM.
HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT NUMBER OF FRENCH SCHOOL CHILDREN ON BUS WERE KILLED BY FRENCH GUNFIRE.
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3. FRONT'S CLAIM THAT THREE OF ABDUCTORS ESCAPED WITH ONE OF THEIR HOSTAGES WAS UNDOUBTEDLY FABRICATED TO JUSTIFY FRONT'S CONTINUED RETENTION OF BOY -- WHO WE UNDERSTAND ESCAPED FROM BUS BUT FLED IN WRONG DIRECTION -- IN SUPPORT OF TERRORISTS' ORIGINAL AIMS. FLCS LEADERSHIP IN SOMALIA IS IN EFFECT TAKING UP WHERE DEAD TERRORISTS LEFT OFF.

4. FRENCH AMBASSADOR GUEURY MET WITH SECSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARTEH AT 1900 HRS LOCAL FEBRUARY 5 FOR TWO-HR SESSION BUT NO RPT NO PROGRESS MADE IN OBTAINING BOY'S RELEASE. THIS IS FIRST CONTACT AMBASSADOR GUEURY OR ANY MEMBER OF FRENCH MISSION HAS HAD WITH SOMALI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SINCE BUS HIJACKING TOOK PLACE ON FEBRUARY 3. (FYI INCREDIBLY ENOUGH, ONE OF SUBJECTS ARTEH RAISED WITH FRENCH ENVOY WAS TO PROTEST GUEURY'S DIVULGENCE OF SOMALI INACCESSIBILITY TO PRESS. END FYI).

5. ANTI-FRENCH DEMONSTRATION NOW BEING ORGANIZED BY GOVERNMENT AND WILL TAKE PLACE AT 1330 LOCAL TIME TODAY, FEBRUARY 6.
LOUGHRAN

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